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NEWS RELEASE

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March 31, 1997

AWARD-WINNING COURTROOM REPORTER TO ADDRESS UM'S 1997 MONTANA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CONFERENCE

MISSOULA –

One of America's premier courtroom reporters will be the featured speaker at the 1997 Montana Freedom of Information Conference on Saturday, April 12, at The University of Montana School of Journalism in Missoula.

Linda Deutsch, an Associated Press special correspondent who has covered many of the most famous trials of the past 25 years, will give the conference's keynote address and participate in one of three discussions centered on this year's theme, "Rights in Conflict: Free Press vs. Free Trial."

The conference, the fourth since 1993, is co-sponsored by the Montana Freedom of Information Hotline, the Montana Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the University of Montana's Schools of Law and Journalism.

Deutsch also is scheduled to speak April 11 at the School of Journalism's annual Dean Stone Night awards banquet.

Millions of Americans read Deutsch's coverage of the O.J. Simpson criminal and civil trials, her latest assignment in a career of covering high-profile trials including those of Sirhan Sirhan, Charles Manson, Patty Hearst, Angela Davis, Daniel Ellsberg, John De Lorean, Exxon Valdez skipper Joseph Hazelwood, William Kennedy Smith, the Menendez brothers and the four police officers accused of beating motorist Rodney King.

- more -

She has also covered two presidents -- Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan -- and two assassination attempts on president Gerald Ford.

She has received many awards, notably the University of Missouri School of Journalism's Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism and the Society of Professional Journalists' First Amendment Award for her work in the cause of freedom of information.

Deutsch will speak during the conference's noon luncheon, following two morning panel discussions. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. on the third floor of UM's Journalism Building.

Scheduled panel discussions during the morning are "Access to Juvenile Records and Proceedings" and "Rethinking Cameras in the Courtroom." An afternoon panel, "The Perils of Pretrial Publicity," will follow lunch.

The conference includes presentation of the third annual Montana Free Press Award.

Admission is \$20 per person, lunch included.

Participants may register by writing to the Montana FOI Hotline, c/o UM School of Journalism, Missoula, MT, 59812, or by calling (406) 243-4001. Checks should be made payable to "UM Foundation/Journalism."

Montana attorneys attending the conference may arrange to receive credit through the School of Law's continuing legal education program by calling Maylinn Smith at (406) 243-2544.

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Contact: Clem Work, UM professor of journalism, 243-2160.

DS/bls

Local, state dailies, Western Montana weeklies

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